

dedication of Mission College students, faculty and administration.

It is a pleasure to ask my colleagues to join me in saluting the Los Angeles Mission College on its 25th Anniversary. It has been an honor to have such a fine institution in the 26th Congressional District and I look forward to its continued evolution and success over the next 25 years.

RECOGNIZING THE MASSACHUSETTS STATE CHAMPION LUDLOW HIGH SCHOOL BOYS SOCCER TEAM

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 8, 2000

Mr. NEAL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the achievements of the 1991 Ludlow High School boys soccer team. The Ludlow boys soccer team reclaimed the Massachusetts State title last November by trouncing their opponents from Needham 4-0. The Ludlow team finished the season with a record of 17-3-1, but their final game was their most impressive as they dominated Needham from start to finish. This team, like many Ludlow teams before it, played a skillful soccer style which allowed them to outplay virtually every opponent they faced.

Ludlow has been the heart of Western Massachusetts soccer for as long as anyone can remember. The town residents follow the high school teams with a fanaticism rarely seen in the United States, and during the 1990s, they have had a lot to cheer about. The Lions won the Western Massachusetts title five of the last six years, and won the state title in 1995, 1997, and 1999.

The success of the Ludlow Boys Soccer team can be linked directly to the coach. Head Coach Tony Goncalves has built a dominating program centered around skill and class. His knowledge of soccer is unparalleled in Western Massachusetts, and his coaching style is one that commands respect from his players, his opponents, and his fellow coaches. Coach Goncalves is quick to praise others, he is gracious in victory or defeat, and he is an inexhaustible resource for young coaches. He is the center of, and driving force behind, the success of the Ludlow High School boys soccer team.

Mr. Speaker, allow me to recognize here the players, coaches, and managers of the Ludlow High School boys soccer team of 1999. The players include Seniors Jonathon Witowski, Jason Chelo, Jason Dacruz, Justin Bruneau, John Reilly, Dave Fonseca, Dave Gwozdz, Rich Zina, Kevin Crespo, and Dan S. Santos, and Juniors Joe Jorge, Jason Devlin, Steve Jorge, Helder Pires, Mike Pio, Brian Cochenour, Chris Chelo, Manny Goncalves, Tim Romanski, Ray Cheria, Paul Martins, and Dennis Carvalho. The team is lead by Head Coach Tony Goncalves, long time Assistant Coach Jack Vilaca, assistants, Greg Kolodziej and Jonathon Cavallo, and managers Audrey Vilaca, Sarah Russell, Jennifer Russell, and Jillian Dube. Mr. Speaker, once again I am proud and honored to congratulate the 1999

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

Massachusetts State Champion boys soccer team from Ludlow High School in Ludlow, Massachusetts.

HONORING THE 60TH BIRTHDAY OF REVEREND VALENTINE H. SHEPPARD

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 8, 2000

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Reverend Valentine H. Sheppard. Reverend Sheppard's compassionate spirit touches all of those who know him.

Through vision, diligence and dedication he founded Hebron Baptist Church in 1983. Seventeen years later the Church is a thriving house of worship and love. He is not only the founder and pastor of Hebron Baptist Church, but also an active member of the Brooklyn community.

Reverend Sheppard is a past-president of the Baptist Pastor's and Church's Union of Brooklyn and Long Island. He is the program chairperson for their Annual Emancipation Day Service and Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Observance Service. He has held several offices in the Eastern Baptist Association and is a member of the executive board of the Hampton University Minister's Conference. Reverend Sheppard is a graduate of Nazarene Theological Seminary of Trinidad and is in his 40th year in the ministry. He is a graduate of the American Institute of Banking and a winner of their Regional Public Speaking contest for 3 consecutive years. He served as chairperson of the Board of Directors of the Roundtable Senior Citizen Center of Brooklyn.

Reverend Valentine H. Sheppard is the father of three children and the spiritual father of countless others. Mr. Speaker, I would like you along with my colleagues from both sides of the aisle to join me honoring Reverend Valentine H. Sheppard on his 60th birthday.

HONORING RICHARD DESILVA

HON. MARGE ROUKEMA

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 8, 2000

Mr. ROUKEMA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Richard A. DeSilva, a businessman and community leader in northern New Jersey who has made many contributions to our local schools, economy and quality of life. Mr. DeSilva is a hard-working entrepreneur who has found success and, in the tradition of many successful businessmen before him, has chosen to "give back" to the community. He is one of our outstanding citizens and a role model for our young people.

Mr. DeSilva, the owner of Liberty Subaru Inc., in Oradell, New Jersey, last month received the Time Magazine Quality Dealer Award, presented each year jointly by Time Magazine and the Goodyear Tire and Rubber Co. Last year, he received the All-Star Dealer Award from the American International Auto-

mobile Dealers Association. Both of these awards are presented not just in recognition of excellence in automobile sales and service but also for excellence in community service.

Mr. DeSilva started in the retail automobile business as a teenager working at the Ford dealership where his father was the service manager. He graduated from Bowling Green State University with a degree in marketing in 1974 and sold new cars for a short period before opening a used-car dealership in Paterson. His "big break" came in 1976, when he and his brother acquired a franchise from Subaru. The brothers started off selling an average 14 cars a month, but the dealership now sells nearly 1,100 a year.

As might be expected, Mr. DeSilva has been active within the automobile industry. He is a member of the AIADA board of directors, has been on the Subaru National Dealer Advisory Board since 1989 and has served as chairman three times. He is also active with the New Jersey Coalition of Automotive Retailers.

It has been Mr. DeSilva's level of involvement in his community, however, that has brought him recognition. Mr. DeSilva and his wife, Wendy, a grammar school and physical education teacher, have been involved in the Mahwah public school system for many years. Mr. DeSilva coached wrestling and was active in the Mahwah Sports Booster program while their sons were in school. In 1991 and 1992, he chaired the demographics committee for the Mahwah Schools facilities Ad Hoc Committee, a group charged with studying future student enrollment and making recommendations to the school board. In 1995, he was selected to finish the term of a former school board member. He was elected to his first full, three-year term on the board in 1996 and re-elected last year.

Mr. Speaker, Rick DeSilva is an outstanding member of our community. He is a successful businessman who helps drive the local economy. He is an active and respected member of the local school board, helping guide the education and future of our youth. And he has been an involved parent, coaching young people on the athletic field and instilling the spirit of teamwork that is so crucial to success in the adult world. He has been recognized by his peers in his own industry. I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join in that recognition by congratulating him on the work he has done and wishing him the best in the future.

REMARKS OF SENATOR JOSEPH I. LIEBERMAN AT THE 48TH NATIONAL PRAYER BREAKFAST

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 8, 2000

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, last Thursday morning the 48th National Prayer Breakfast was held here in Washington. This annual event dates to 1952 when the first gathering was held to pray for President-elect Dwight Eisenhower and his administration. Each year since 1952, the President and Vice President,